

# Dialect variation in Bern

Driven by public transport?

Christa Schneider

**Transcultural urban spaces: Where geography meets language**

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# Overview

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- > Introduction
  - > Public transport in Bern
  - > Demographic changes in Bern
  - > Results: 4 variables
  - > Conclusion
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# Introduction

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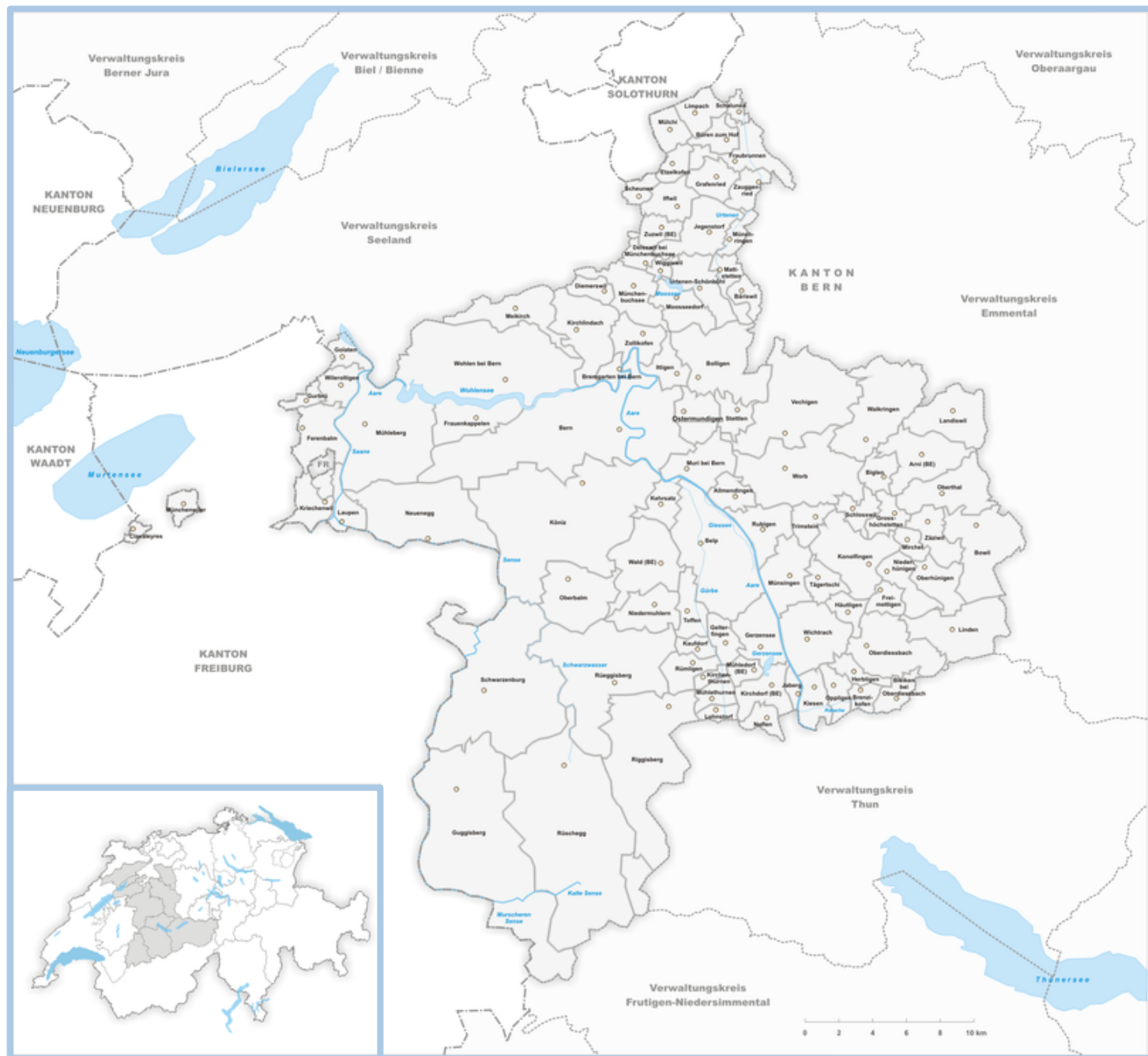
- > Aim: Documentation of language variation and change in Bern
- > Method: SDS data (around 1944) vs. own data
  - SDS (atlas of German speaking Switzerland): NORMs, 22 places in Bern
  - Own data:

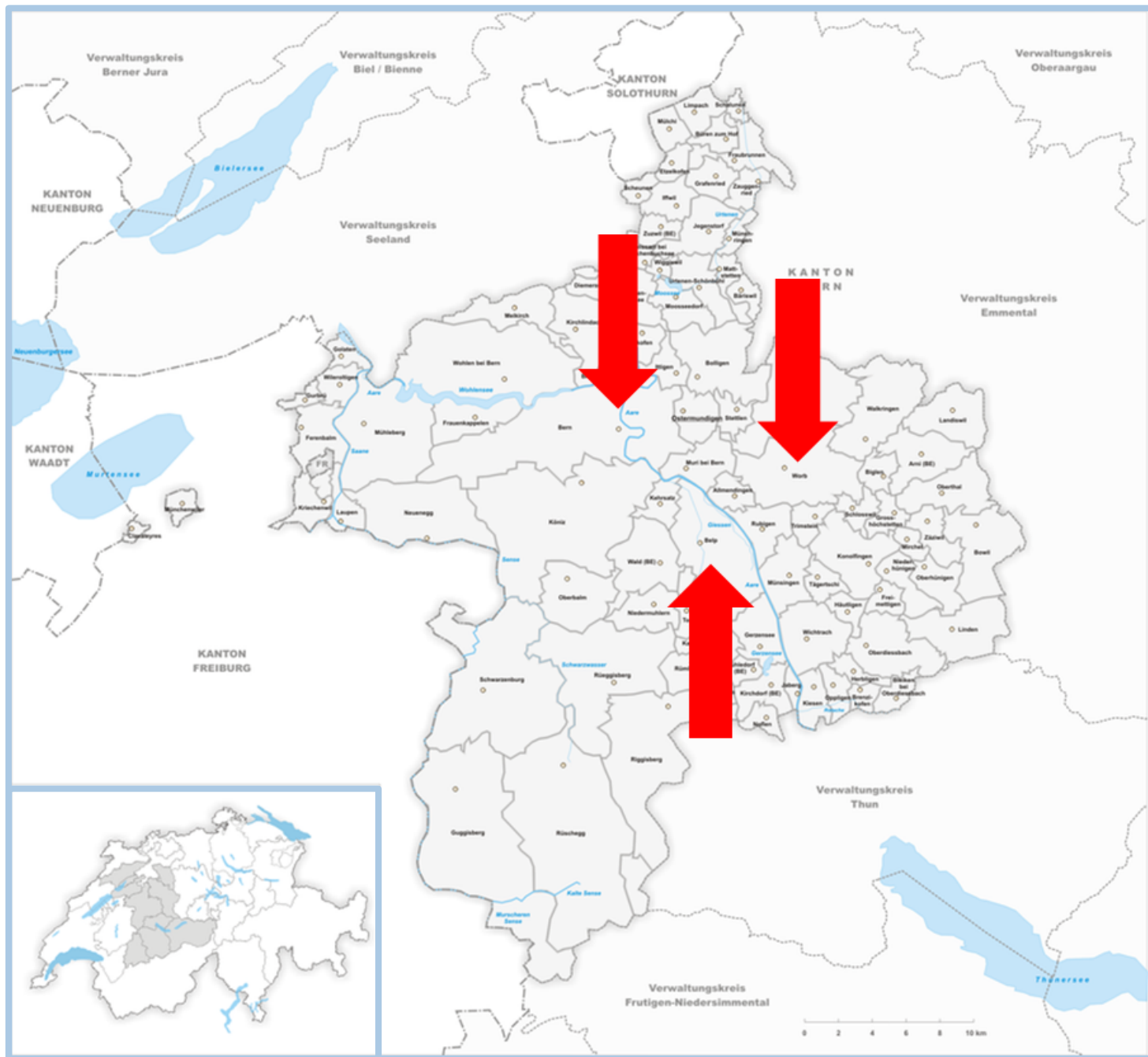
## **Informants**

- 340 speakers
- Age groups:
  - 18-30
  - 30-60
  - 60+
- Occupational group: farmers
- 85 municipalities (Berner Mittelland)

## **Speech data**

- Interviews:
  - questionnaires
  - spontaneous speech
  - translation task
- Variables: 120 (SDS)
  - phonology
  - morphology
  - lexis

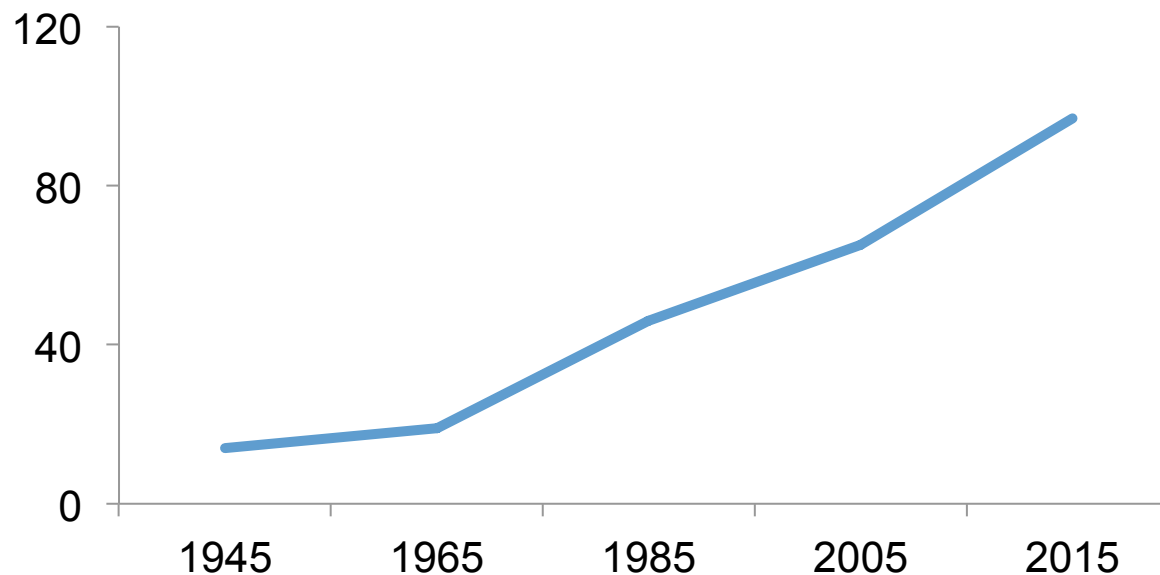




# Public transport

## > Availability of public transportation facilities (1945 – 2015)

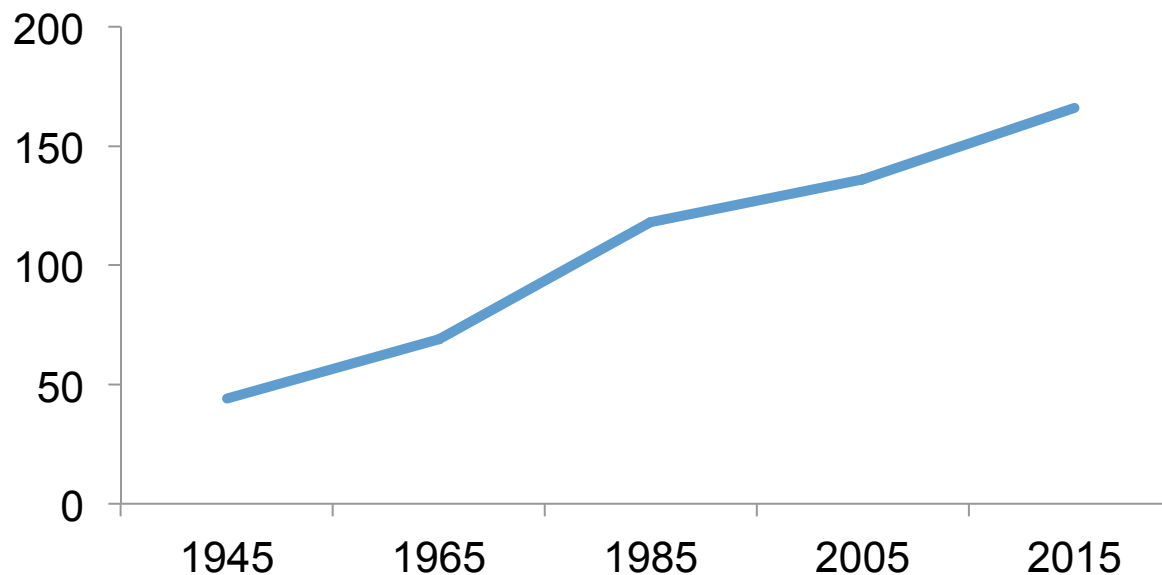
— Bern-Belp-Bern



# Public transport

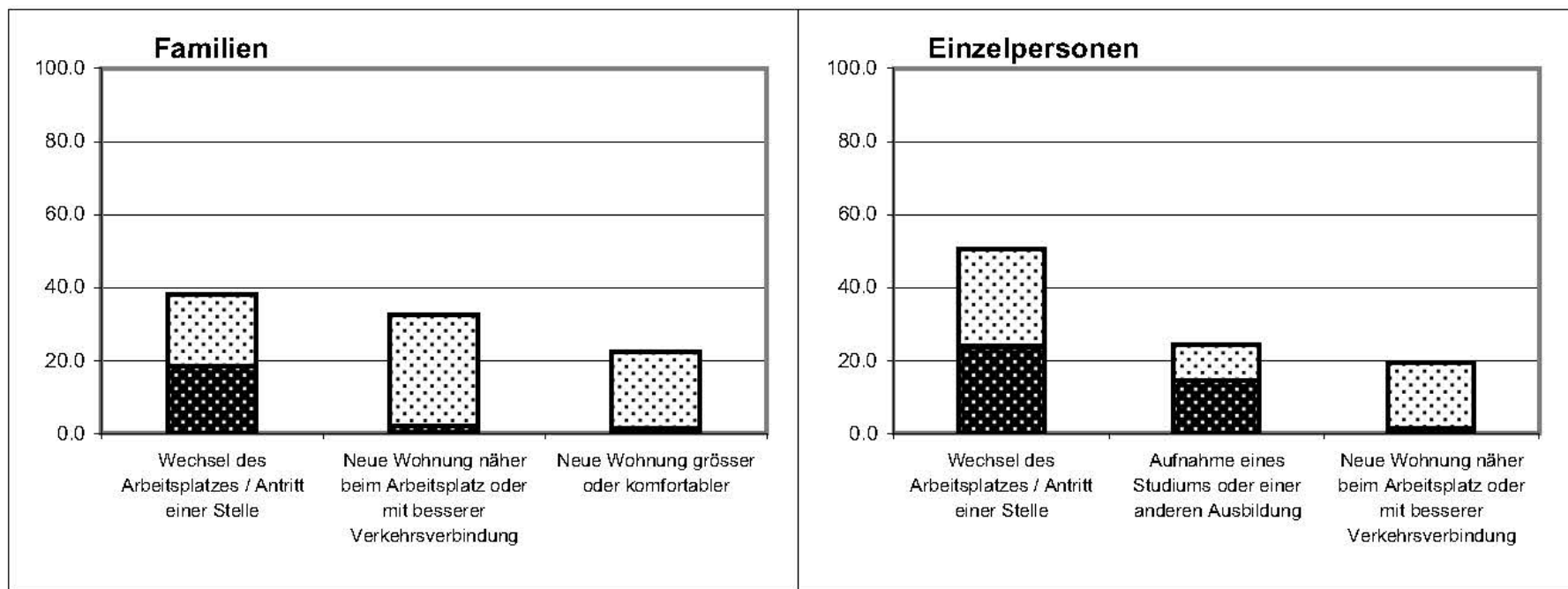
## > Availability of public transportation facilities (1945 – 2015)

— Bern-Worb-Bern



# Demographic changes

## Reasons for moving into the city of Bern (1979)

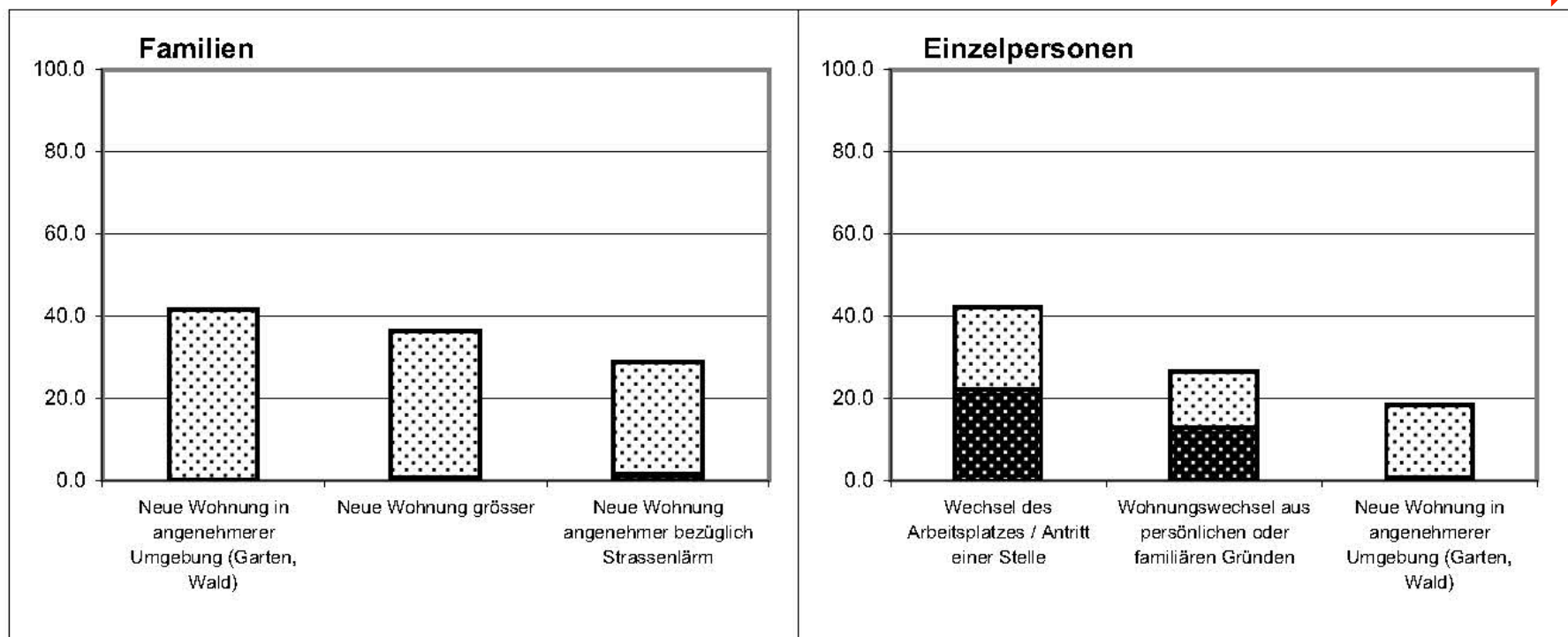


1010 families, 13964 single persons



# Demographic changes

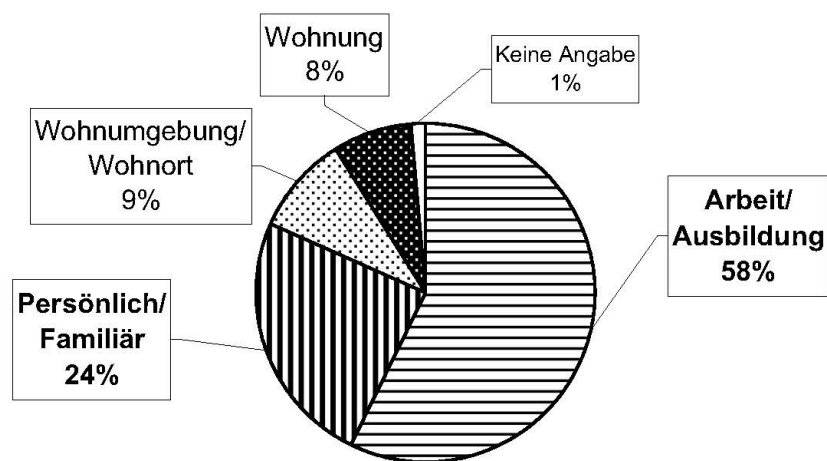
## Reasons for moving out of the city of Bern (1979)



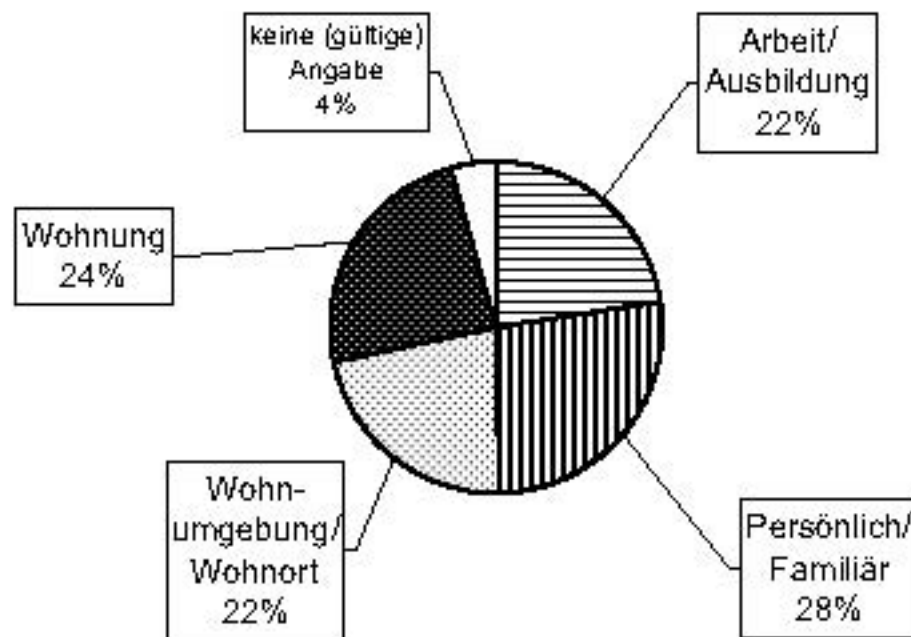
1579 families, 14817 single persons

# Demographic changes

Families (491) moving in (2000)

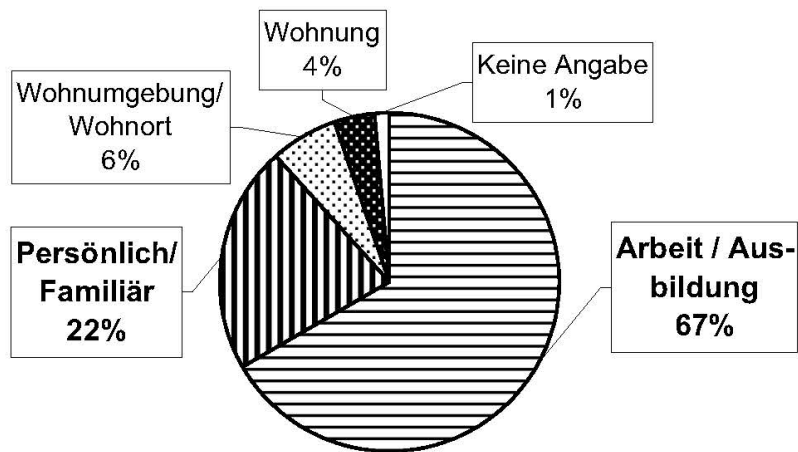


Families (1114) moving out (2000)

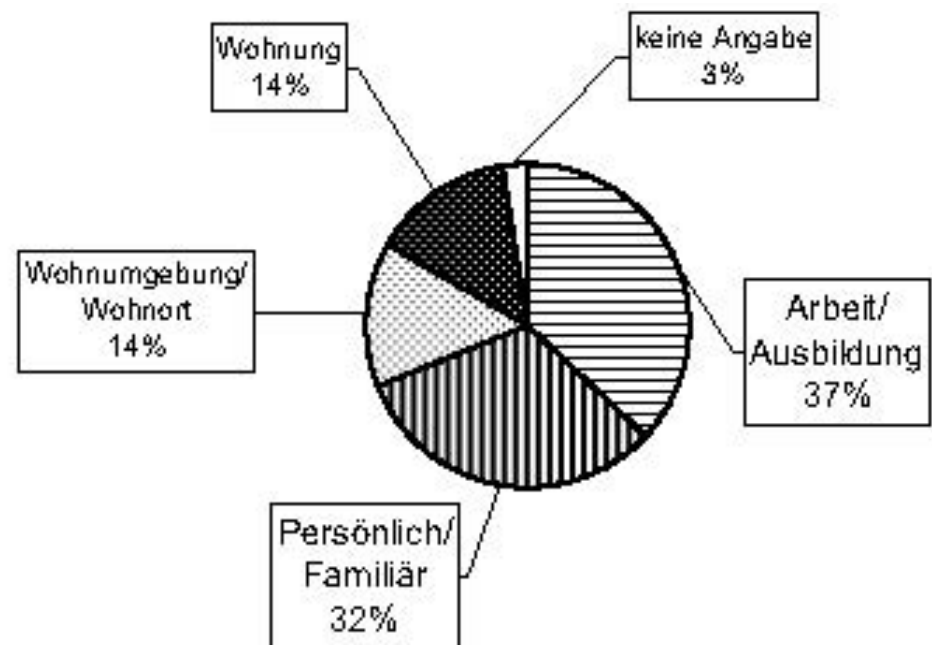


# Demographic changes

Singles (11762) moving in (2000)



Singles (11092) moving out (2000)



# Public transport system and demographic movement

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## > Summary:

### — Public transport system 1945 - 2015

- Bern-Belp: +700%
- Bern-Worb: +400%

### — Demographic changes: motivations for moving into Bern city

- Families: living environment, working place, education
  - Singles: working place, education
  - Total: Decline in population from 163'000 in 1965 to 127'000 in 2000, 138'000 in 2013
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# Results

> Variable 1: Geiss (goat)

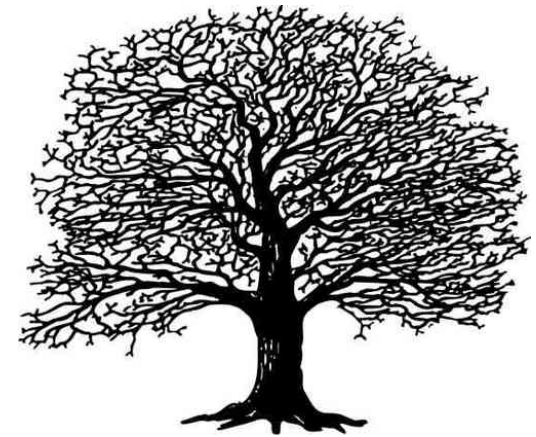
	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Geiss	Giis	Geiss
Own data	Geiss	Geiss	Geiss



# Results

> Variable 2: Baum (tree)

	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Boum	Buum	Boum
Own data	Boum	Boum	Boum



# Results

> Variable 3: trinken (to drink)

- Staub's law: /n/ → ø\_fricative; with vowel lengthening and/or diphthongisation  
e.g. *finster-fiischter-feischter*

	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Trinkche	Triiche	Treiche
Own data	Trinkche	Trinkche	Trinkche



# Results

- > Variable 4: Kirche (church)
  - I-vocalisation.
  - SDS: unmarked, low-prestige, from rural to cities  
e.g. Brille-Brüue (glasses)
  - Lexical item <Kirche> is an exception?

	Bern	Belp	Worb
SDS data	Chile	Chiuche	Chiuche
Own data	Chile	Chile	Chile





# Conclusion

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- > Observations: Urban dialect spread to rural areas
    - Public transportation increase? (+400% / +700%)
    - Demographic changes? (link to public transportation increase)
  
  - > But
    - Same direction of spread for *all* variables?
    - Road network changes?
    - What happens now when people are moving back to the city?
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**Merci viu mau!**

# References

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